

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NASA SPACE ART EXHIBIT

DEPARTMENT PASS TO NASA

USIA FOR IEE; STATE FOR CU/EE; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

REF: A) MOSCOW 8244; B) STATE 135896; C) MOSCOW 2577;

D) LOEBNER/FRUTKIN LETTER OF 2/25/75

1. IN JUNE 18 MEETING, ARTISTS' UNION REPS PRESENTED
EMBOFFS WITH ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL FOR SPACE ART EXHIBIT,
SUGGESTING EXHIBIT ITSELF, LIKE SPACE SHOT, BE JOINT VENTURE.
UNION PROPOSES BOTH SOVIET AND AMERICAN ARTISTS BE
REPRESENTED BY WORKS OF SPACE ART IN BOTH RPT BOTH MOSCOW
AND WASHINGTON (THE LATTER IN 1976 AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED),
INSTEAD OF PRESENT PLAN WHICH ENVISAGES ONLY AMERICAN WORKS
IN MOSCOW AND SOVIET WORKS IN WASHINGTON. SOVIETS PREPARED
EXHIBIT ABOUT 30 TO 35 SOVIET PAINTINGS IN MOSCOW EXHIBITION,
COMPARED TO 50 AMERICAN
PAINTINGS; REVERSE WOULD PRESUMABLY
HOLD IN WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR. ACCORDING YU.(. KOROLEV,
SECRETARY OF UNION, SOVIET ARTISITS VERY ACTIVE IN THIS
FIELD, AND WOULD BE USEFUL FOR BOTH SIDES, IN EFFECT,
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AS FOLLOW-UP IN ORDER SEE PROGRESSION AND ACCOMPLISH-

MENTS OF BOTH IN INTERVENING YEAR.

2. SOVIETS ADDED THEY INTEND EXHIBIT TO TRAVEL TO OTHER AS YET UNSPECIFIED CITIES IN USSR (THE FIGURE FIVE BEING MENTIONED), NEWS WHICH SURPRISED BUT PLEASED EMBOFFS. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS BELIEVE SHOWING IN KALUGA (AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED, REFTEL C) A GOOD IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, THEY POINTED OUT KALUGA WOULD DRAW ONLY LIMITED AUDIENCE AS IT FAR FROM MOSCOW WHERE EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY ANYWAY. BELIEVE SOVIETS INTERESTED IN TOUR OF MAJOR CITIES; EMBASSY CONCURRED WITH SOVIET DESIRE AND INFORMED LENINGRAD.

3. UNION EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING TWO OR THREE AMERICAN ARTISTS REPRESENTED IN SHOW FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN-DAY VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, PREFERABLY TO COINCIDE WITH JULY 15 OFFICIAL OPENING OF EXHIBIT, WHICH PROBABLY WILL RUN ABOUT A MONTH IN MOSCOW. UNION OFFICIALS SEE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOVIET AND AMERICAN ARTISTS TO MEET INFORMALLY, DISCUSS WORK, EXCHANGE IDEAS, ETC. AND PROPOSE SIMILAR VISIT TO U.S. BY SOVIET ARTISTS NEXT YEAR. STRESSED MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT WOULD BE CHANCE FOR ARTISTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO MEET. FYI: POST WAS PLANNING PROPOSE SIMILAR IDEA FOR LATER DATE AND SUGGESTS RAUSCHENBERG AND WYETH AS WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS WHOSE TECHNIQUES AND STYLE ARE SUFFICIENTLY CONTEMPORARY YET DIVERSE TO MERIT INVITING THEM TOGETHER. BELIEVE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BE CHOICE OPPORTUNITY OPEN PREVIOUSLY WARY MINDS AND DOORS AT ARTISTS UNION AND ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CONTACTS (E.G. POSSIBLE JIM DINE EXHIBIT IN FALL). KOROLEV HIMSELF NOTED ARTISTS UNION REGARDS EXCHANGE AS "NOT LAST NIGHTINGALE" AND EXPECTS PROPOSED EXCHANGE WILL BE ONLY BEGINNING OF EXPANDED CONTACTS.

4. SOVIETS PROPOSE SENDING SIDE PAY ARTISTS' INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS, WHILE RECEIVING SIDE COVER COSTS OF HOTEL, FOOD, INTERNAL TRAVEL AND INTERPRETER. LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE MADE THIS IMPERATIVE FOR UNION, KOROLEV SAID.

5. ACCORDING KOROLEV, UNION OVER MONTH AGO EXTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITATION (THROUGH NASM DIRECTOR MICHAEL COLLINS) FOR TWO UNSPECIFIED ARTISTS, BUT HAS HAD NO RESPONSE. FYI: COLLINS COINCIDENTALLY IN MOSCOW, UNABLE ATTEND MEETING AT UNION, BUT LATER TOLD EMBOFF THAT SAID LETTER NEVER REACHED HIM. END FYI.

6. EMBOFF RAISED SOVIET JOINT DISPLAY PROPOSAL WITH COLLINS DURING JUNE 19 MEETING AND RECEIVED HIS

APPROVAL AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF SOVIET INVITATION TO TWO ARTISTS. COLLINS POINTED OUT TWO FORESEEABLE PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION NEXT YEAR'S SOVIET EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON: ONE, AMERICAN AUDIENCES WILL BE DRAWN BY ALL-SOVIET EXHIBIT, NOT BY JOINT EXHIBIT, AND TWO, ANY SOVIET ARTISTS VISITING NEXT YEAR DURING OPENING OF NAS MUSEUM WOULD BE OVERLOOKED IN CRUSH OF BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES AND WOULD DO BETTER TO VISIT AT A SOMEWHAT LATER TIME. IN TERMS OF RECIPROCITY, THEREFORE, COLLINS FEARS U.S. WOULD HAVE TO OFFER SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK FOR SOVIET EXHIBIT IN AMERICA. COLLINS ALSO UNSURE WHETHER MUSEUMS IN OTHER AMERICAN CITIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXHIBIT AND THUS WHETHER RECIPROCITY OF ISSUE OF TRAVEL OF EXHIBIT COULD BE GUARANTEED.

7. ON BASIS ABOVE EMBASSY PREPARED RESPOND POSITIVELY TO UNION PROPOSAL. IT UNLIKELY SOVIETS WOULD OBJECT TO RESERVING SPOT LIGHT FOR THEMSELVES IN WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW THEY SHARE SPOTLIGHT IN MOSCOW, COMING OUT AHEAD IN TERMS OF EXPOSURE. ALSO DOUBTFUL SOVIETS WOULD REJECT U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON TIMING OF SOVIET ARTISTS' TRIP TO U.S. PROBLEM OF TRAVEL OF SOVIET EXHIBIT REMAINS, BUT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAJOR OBSTACLE IN LIGHT OF COLLINS' OFFER COMMUNICATE WITH VARIOUS U.S. MUSEUMS.

8. SOVIETS ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF PROTOCOL, ADDING IT COULD BE WORKED OUT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITHIN TEN DAYS. EMBASSY ASSUMES AMBASSADOR WILL BE INVITED ATTEND OPENING CEREMONIES. COLLINS ADVISED NO ONE FROM NASA OR NAS MUSEUM WOULD ATTEND, BUT SUGGESTED PERHAPS ONE OF NASA DELEGATION MEMBERS WHO WILL BE IN MOSCOW FOR SPACE SHOT COULD ATTEND. ADVISE.

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9. SOVIETS CLAIM THEY PREPARING OWN CATALOGUE FOR THEIR WORKS AND JOINT EFFORT ON CATALOGUE UNNECESSARY DESPITE JOINT NATURE REST OF PROJECT.

10. EXHIBIT TO BE HOUSED IN MAIN UNION EXHIBIT HALL ON GORKIY STREET ACROSS FROM HOTEL MINSK (CORRECTION OF REFTEL A).

11. ACTION REQUESTED: POST INTERESTED KNOW IF RAUSCHENBERG AND WYETH, PREFERABLY, BUT NOT TO EXCLUDE OTHERS, AVAILABLE FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN-DAY PERIOD AROUND JULY 15 (ETA JULY 13 OR 14), OR FOR PERIOD DURING MOSCOW DURATION OF EXHIBIT, AND UNDER WHAT TERMS THEY WOULD BE WILLING VISIT USSR. PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE HANDLED BY BOTH UNION AND EMBASSY, AND LECTURE ENGAGEMENTS, AS WELL AS MORE INFORMAL SESSIONS, WOULD BE LIKELY. IT WOULD

BE EXCELLENT IDEA IF ARTISTS (UNION MENTIONED
FIGURE OF TWO OR THREE) COULD BRING SLIDE-SHOW
PRESENTATION OF THEIR WORK (OTHER THAN SPACE
ART AS WELL) AS WELL AS OTHER MATERIALS. IF NO
ONE AVAILABLE DURING PERIOD CITED, POST COULD PROBABLY
WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY ARTISTS JOIN EXHIBIT IN
ANOTHER CITY (AS YET UNKNOWN), WITH VISIT TO MOSCOW
INCLUDED. POST SEES PROJECT, ESPECIALLY AS IT SUGGEST-
ED BY SOVIETS, AS EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY EXPAND RELA-
TIONS WITH HERETOFORE RATHER CLOSED SECTOR OF ART WORLD.
ADVISE SOONEST.
STOESSEL

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